

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Madison Heights, Michigan
April 21, 2022

A Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was held on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 5:30 PM at Department of Public Services, 801 Ajax Dr.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dzeroogian called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Dzeroogian, Merri Busch, Vita Palazzolo, Ashlyn Gore, Councilor Emily Rohrbach, Corey Almas, Brooke Heisler, Matt Pardy, Sean Ballantine

Absent: Vicki Harris, Jason Theodoroff, Sandra Quackenbush (with notice), Jamie Bommarito, Lisa Wright, Rob Borngesser, Gloria Thompson, Debbie Ott.

Members of the public were also present.

1. Excuse Absences (if applicable)

Motion by Palazzolo, seconded by Busch, to excuse those members who gave notice.

Unanimous approval.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

No additions or deletions to the agenda were proposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rohrbach, seconded by Gore, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2021 as printed.

Unanimous approval.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of 11/18/21

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Rebecca Chambliss expressed how much she enjoyed the parks here in the City.

REPORTS

3. Activities & Events Sub-Committee

Councilor Rohrbach provided an update, focusing on the subcommittee's involvement with upcoming events, representing the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

4. Student Report

Madison High School -

Lamphere High School - Vacant

Bishop Foley High School - Vacant

Madison Student Representative Ashlyn Gore provided the following report:

Baseball and softball going well, 33-0 win for the first softball game. Field trips are being planned for each grade. Prom is upcoming, as well as the SAT and PSAT prep. Student Council is fundraising to help with prom and other events. Also had a FAFSA raffle, encouraging students to fill out their FAFSA with 3 winning students receiving prizes.

5. School Board Representative Report

Madison District - Gloria Thompson:

Lamphere District - Rob Borngesser:

No school board representatives were present.

6. Council Report

Councilor Rohrbach provided the following report:

The Civic Center Campus project is ongoing, the AAC has been put up for sale, and the City is currently bidding materials to start the project. Provided an overview of the project. Bids have been favorable so far, with a July groundbreaking planned.

Neighborhood revitalization project involving \$75,000 in CDBG funding put into a specific area, creating an all-in approach through City services.

Grant funding has come in for more tree plantings.

The new librarian, Vanessa Verdun-Morris has started, and is already bringing forward great new ideas.

With all of that said, the tax millage rate to the residents is actually going down this upcoming fiscal year.

7. Administration Report

DPS Director Almas provided the following report:

Civic Center project is gaining momentum; City Manager Marsh, Public Works Supervisor Ballantine, and himself will have a lot of involvement throughout.

The City is heavily involved in road construction, including the I-75 Project. Regarding the sinkhole situation, the new tunnel boring machine is in place, and the old one has been removed. The project is moving along. Described the pacing and timeline for progress, closures, etc.

Busch inquired if the City could plant trees near Monroe Park to alleviate noise concerns. Almas responded that the City will look into doing so on their property, but the majority of the land in question is MDOT right-of-way.

Described upcoming residential road construction projects. Dzeroogian inquired about the chemical situation on I-696. Almas responded by summarizing the demolition project at the former Electro-Plating site on 10 Mile Road.

8. Oakland County Parks & Recreation Report

Park Supervisor Matt Parady provided the following report:

Preparing for summer at Red Oaks. The Nature Center is fully reopened as the last of the COVID mandates fell off. It has been extremely busy as the weather is breaking. Staff is currently working on getting the Nature Center pond and waterfall up for the season.

Staffing is looking even worse than last year for the Waterpark; lifeguard applications are not coming in. OCPR is hoping to get staff in place before opening, as it is still early.

Golf course is fully open, attendance has been hit or miss depending on the weather. Nice days are seeing it fully booked.

9. Recreation Report

Recreation Coordinator Heisler provided the following update:

Spring/summer registration is open, over 100 registrations were received the first day. Only one program ended up being cancelled due to low registration, and the majority of classes are selling out.

There are 6 softball teams, including a new age division, and once again partnering with Royal Oak and Clawson. Currently 5 T-ball teams signed up, but expecting more. There are 22 new programs and activities this season. Recreation is focusing on programming that is free to the public, and partnering with the County.

Space is becoming an issue for new programming; all of our available facilities are nearly booked solid.

Summer camp enrollment is open, with a steady flow of campers. Currently interviewing for summer camp staff. Sign up for the upcoming 5K! Our basketball program had 73 kids, and the parent surveys were overwhelmingly positive; it was an extremely successful season.

10. Streets/Facilities/Parks Report

Public Works Supervisor Ballantine provided the following report:

Parks are entering "spring mode", tennis, volleyball, drinking fountains, and other seasonal amenities will be installed in the upcoming weeks.

Planting a great deal of trees, coming soon are 40 more trees up and down John R in the DDA.

Groundbreaking anticipated soon on the Rosie's playscape.

Campus construction project is keeping DPS very busy, and that's not looking to slow down anytime soon as the project really gets going.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. Recreation Master Plan

No update.

12. Student Representatives

Public Works Supervisor Ballantine reminded the Board that we are in need of student representatives. He illustrated the point that without the student rep and an alternate member in attendance, we would not have a quorum at this meeting; we just made it.

13. Playground Equipment

Public Works Supervisor Ballantine gave an update on previous and upcoming installations of new playground equipment in the parks system.

14. Fence Projects

Public Works Supervisor Ballantine reported that all new fence installations were complete. They turned out very well, we are quite pleased with this company's performance.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was proposed by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Busch, second by Palazzolo to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Dzeroogian adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2021.

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